--- “Series of 1883” - 25 Cigars - Black - 295 x 22 mm - with blunt ends ---

The catalogue lists the ‘pointed end” black twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-223(L) - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, *lithographed* on horizontal mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls
RG-223 - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 4 mm. blue controls

The catalogue lists the ‘blunt ends’ black twenty-five cigar “Series of 1883” as follows:

RG-227 - 25 cigars, black, perforated 12, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 4 mm. blue controls
RG-228 - 25 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 4 mm. blue controls
RG-230 - 25 cigars, black, *coarse roulette*, recess printed by rotary press on unwatermarked wove - 5 mm. blue controls

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3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) John McKay records 127,875 *lithographed* “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. These are the ‘pointed’ end **RG-223(L)**.

4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) John McKay records 603,813 *lithographed* “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. These also are the ‘pointed’ end **RG-223(L)**.

5th BABN Contract (1892-1897) John McKay records 143,700 copies (*recess printed* by hand press) and 457,612 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press) of “25 Black Cigars” as delivered. *Recess printed* - The former were ‘pointed end’ **RG-223** and the latter were ‘rounded’ end **RG-227-228-230**.

5th BABN Supplement (1897-1898) John McKay records 149,700 copies of “25 Black Cigars” (*recess printed* - hand press) as delivered. These were the residual ‘pointed’ end **RG-223** strips.

These last copies of **RG-227** initially had been printed in Montreal under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”
These last copies of **G-176a** initially had been printed in Montreal under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available while ABN worked ‘up-to-speed’ with the die preparation and the printing of the “Series of 1897”

3rd BABN Contract	127,875 lithographed	**000001** to **127875** - **RG-223 (L)**
4th BABN Contract	603,813 lithographed	**127876** to **731688** - **RG-223 (L)**
5th BABN Contract	143,700 recess (hand press)	**731689** to **857389** - **RG-223**
5th BABN Supplement	149,700 recess (hand press)	**857390** to 1-**025089** - **RG-223**
5th BABN Contract	457,612 recess (rotary press)	1-**025090** to 1-**482701** - **RG-227-228-230**

The black twenty-five cigar control numbers continue past **999999** and reset to **000001** dropping the one million prefix as usual. I am assuming that the *hand press* recess printed **RG-223** were actually printed and control numbered under the **5th BABN Contract** as a single batch, some of which became the **Supplement** shipment.

One would think that the ‘rounded end’ twenty-five cigar strips would run a new, separate, control number sequence from that used on the ‘pointed end’ strips. However the control number **946518**, as found on **RG-228**, indicates that the control numbering probably ran in one continuous, unbroken, sequence from the *lithographed* **RG-223(L)** through the rotary *recess printed* **RG-223** ending with the hand press *recess printed* **RG-223** as ‘delivered’ under the **5th BABN Supplement**.

The return to Ottawa in 1887 did not occur overnight and many operations were still performed in Montreal. Thus the initial copies of **RG-223** and **RG-227** were printed and control numbered (with 4 mm. controls) in Montreal and the final copies, having been shipped to Ottawa, received 5 mm. control numbering as **RG-230**.

--- *recess printed* by rotary press in Montreal on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue controls ---

--- RG-228 - *coarse roulette* - "blunt end" strips - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-228** - 25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control **946518**, roller cancelled **TOBACCO / CIGARS / 10 - 17** by "Parsieu & Chartrand", Montreal - from the 5th BABN Contract

★**RG-228** - 25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control 1-**108013**, from the 5th BABN Contract - as is usual the one million prefix has been omitted

946518★	RG-228	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove roller cancelled **TOBACCO / CIGARS / 10 - 17**
1-**102853**★★	RG-228 **	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, on a 5¼" x 5⅜" x 1¾" wooden box of **Dunraven Valkyrie 3rd Flor Fina Colorado** cigars, by "Fraser & Stirton" - London, Ontario - **14-32**
1-**108013**★	RG-228	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove
1-**108023**★	RG-228 CP	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters
1-**108024**	RG-228 CP	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters
1-**108043**	RG-228	25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed on vertical mesh wove

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--- RG-230 - *coarse roulette* - "blunt end" strips - with <u>5 mm</u> controls - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-230** - 25 cigars, black, coarse roulette, recess printed in Montreal on vertical mesh wove, with 5 mm. control 1-**140110**, roller cancelled **CIGARS / 21 - 17** by the "Oriental Tobacco Company", Montreal

1-**140110**★	RG-230	25 cigars, *coarse roulette*, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper

--- RG-227 - perf 12 - "blunt end" strips - with 4 mm controls - scanned at 50% scale ---

★**RG-227** - 25 cigars, black, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. control 1-**419558**

1-**419558**★	RG-227	25 cigars, *perforated 12*, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper
1-**441160**	RG-227	25 cigars, *perforated 12*, recess printed on vertical mesh wove paper

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 25 cigars - blunt ends],
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